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# SOUTHERN MARYLAND NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2024) to establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2024

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act”.

## SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.—The term “National Heritage Area” means the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area established by section 3(a).

(2) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The term “Local Coordinating Entity” means the local coordinating entity for the National Heritage Area designated by this Act.

(3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “management plan” means the management plan for the Heritage Area required under section 5(a).

(4) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Proposed Boundary”, numbered 672/177,225, and dated August 2021.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Maryland.

## SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area in the State of Maryland, to consist of land in St. Mary’s, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George’s Counties in the State, as generally depicted on the map.

(b) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland shall serve as the local coordinating entity for the National Heritage Area designated by subsection (a).

## SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) AUTHORITIES.—For purposes of carrying out the management plan for the National Heritage Area, the Secretary acting through the Local Coordinating Entity may use amounts made available under section 9—

(1) to make grants to the State or a political subdivision of the State, Indian Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

(2) to enter into cooperative agreements with, or provide technical assistance to, the State or a political subdivision of the State, Indian Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties;

(3) to hire and compensate staff, which shall include individuals with expertise in natural, cultural, and historical resources protection and heritage programming;

(4) to obtain money or services from any source, including any money or services that are provided under any other Federal law or program, provided that any money specifically authorized for National Heritage areas shall be subject to a 50 percent cost-share requirement;

(5) to contract for goods or services; and

(6) to undertake or be a catalyst for any other activity that furthers the purposes of the National Heritage Area and is consistent with the approved management plan.

(b) DUTIES.—The Local Coordinating Entity shall—

(1) in accordance with section 5, prepare and submit a management plan for the National Heritage Area to the Secretary;

(2) assist Federal agencies, the State or a political subdivision of the State, Indian Tribes, regional planning organizations, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties in carrying out the approved management plan by—

(A) carrying out programs and projects that recognize, protect, and enhance important resource values in the National Heritage Area;

(B) establishing and maintaining interpretive exhibits and programs in the National Heritage Area;

(C) developing recreational, interpretive, and educational opportunities in the National Heritage Area;

(D) increasing public awareness of, and appreciation for, natural, historical, scenic, and cultural resources of the National Heritage Area;

(E) protecting and restoring historic sites and buildings in the National Heritage Area that are consistent with the themes of the National Heritage Area;

(F) ensuring that clear, consistent, and appropriate signs identifying points of public access and sites of interest are posted throughout the National Heritage Area; and

(G) promoting a wide range of partnerships among the Federal Government, State, Tribal, and local governments, organizations, and individuals to further the purposes of the National Heritage Area;

(3) consider the interests of diverse units of government, businesses, organizations, and individuals in the National Heritage Area in the preparation and implementation of the management plan;

(4) conduct meetings open to the public not less frequently than semiannually regarding the development and implementation of the management plan; and

(5) for any year that Federal funds have been appropriated to carry out this Act—

(A) submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes the activities, expenses, and income of the Local Coordinating Entity (including grants to any other entities during the year that the report is made);

(B) make available to the Secretary for audit all records relating to the expenditure of the funds and any matching funds; and

(C) encourage by appropriate means economic viability that is consistent with the National Heritage Area.

(c) PROHIBITION ON THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The Local Coordinating Entity shall not use Federal funds to acquire real property or any interest in real property.

## SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Local Coordinating Entity shall submit to the Secretary for approval a proposed management plan for the National Heritage Area.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The management plan shall—

(1) incorporate an integrated and cooperative approach for the protection, enhancement, and interpretation of the natural, cultural, historic, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(2) take into consideration Federal, State, local, and Tribal plans and treaty rights;

(3) include—

(A) an inventory of—

(i) the resources located in the National Heritage Area; and

(ii) any other property in the National Heritage Area that—

(I) is related to the themes of the National Heritage Area; and

(II) should be preserved, restored, managed, or maintained because of the significance of the property;

(B) comprehensive policies, strategies, and recommendations for the conservation, funding, management, and development of the National Heritage Area;

(C) a description of activities that the Federal Government, State, Tribal, and local governments, private organizations, and individuals have agreed to carry out to protect the natural, historical, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(D) a program of implementation for the management plan by the Local Coordinating Entity that includes a description of—

(i) actions to facilitate ongoing collaboration among partners to promote plans for resource protection, restoration, and construction; and

(ii) specific commitments for implementation that have been made by the Local Coordinating Entity or any unit of government, organization, or individual for the first 5 years of operation;

(E) the identification of sources of funding for carrying out the management plan;

(F) analysis and recommendations for means by which Federal, State, local, and Tribal programs, including the role of the National Park Service in the National Heritage Area, may best be coordinated to carry out this Act; and

(G) an interpretive plan for the National Heritage Area; and

(4) recommend policies and strategies for resource management that consider and detail the application of appropriate land and water management techniques, including the development of intergovernmental and interagency cooperative agreements to protect the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area.

(c) DEADLINE.—If a proposed management plan is not submitted to the Secretary by the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of the Act, the Local Coordinating Entity shall be ineligible to receive additional funding under this Act until the date on which the Secretary approves the management plan.

(d) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the management plan under this section, the Secretary, in consultation with State and Tribal governments, shall approve or disapprove the management plan.

(2) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—In determining whether to approve the management plan, the Secretary shall consider whether—

(A) the Local Coordinating Entity is representative of the diverse interests of the National Heritage Area, including Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, natural and historic resource protection organizations, educational institutions, businesses, and recreational organizations;

(B) the Local Coordinating Entity has afforded adequate opportunity, including public hearings, for public and governmental involvement in the preparation of the management plan; and

(C) the resource protection and interpretation strategies contained in the management plan, if implemented, would adequately protect the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the National Heritage Area.

(3) ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary disapproves the management plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) advise the Local Coordinating Entity in writing of the reasons for the disapproval;

(B) make recommendations for revisions to the management plan; and

(C) not later than 180 days after the receipt of any proposed revision of the management plan from the Local Coordinating Entity, approve or disapprove the proposed revision.

(4) AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove each amendment of the management plan that the Secretary determines make a substantial change to the management plan.

(B) USE OF FUNDS.—The Local Coordinating Entity shall not use Federal funds authorized by this Act to carry out any amendment to the management plan until the Secretary has approved the amendment.

**SEC. 6. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Nothing in this Act affects the authority of a Federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance under any other law.

(b) *CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.*—The head of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that may have an impact on the National Heritage Area is encouraged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Secretary and the Local Coordinating Entity to the maximum extent practicable.

(c) *OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.*—Nothing in this Act—

(1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regulations authorizing a Federal agency to manage Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agency;

(2) limits the discretion of a Federal land manager to implement an approved land use plan within the boundaries of the National Heritage Area; or

(3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency.

**SEC. 7. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTECTIONS.**

Nothing in this Act—

(1) abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the National Heritage Area;

(2) requires any property owner—

(A) to permit public access (including access by Federal, State, or local agencies) to the property of the property owner; or

(B) to modify public access or use of property of the property owner under any other Federal, State, or local law;

(3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or other regulatory authority of any Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency;

(4) conveys any land use or other regulatory authority to the Local Coordinating Entity;

(5) authorizes or implies the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;

(6) enlarges or diminishes the treaty rights of any Indian Tribe within the National Heritage Area;

(7) diminishes—

(A) the authority of the State to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing and hunting, within the National Heritage Area; or

(B) the authority of Indian Tribes to regulate members of Indian Tribes with respect to fishing, hunting, and gathering in the exercise of treaty rights; or

(8) creates any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.

**SEC. 8. EVALUATION AND REPORT.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—For the National Heritage Area, not later than 3 years before the date specified under section 9, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of the National Heritage Area; and

(2) prepare a report in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) *EVALUATION.*—An evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) assess the progress of the Local Coordinating Entity with respect to—

(A) accomplishing the purposes of the National Heritage Area; and

(B) achieving the goals and objectives of the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area;

(2) analyze the investments of the Federal Government, State, Tribal, and local governments, and private entities in the National Heritage Area to determine the impact of the investments; and

(3) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the National Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the National Heritage Area.

(c) *REPORT.*—Based on the evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that includes recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service, if any, with respect to the National Heritage Area.

**SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

The authority of the Secretary to provide assistance under this Act terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2024, the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act, introduced by our esteemed colleague, Majority Leader HOYER.

This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area to preserve, protect, and restore the area along with the local coordinating entity.

The heritage area would include portions of St. Mary's, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties in Maryland, with the specific boundaries to be established by the Department of the Interior.

A management plan would be proposed from the Tri-City Council, which is also serving as the local coordinating entity. This management plan would come no later than 3 years after which the funds are made available to carry out this act. An inventory will also be taken because of the significance of the property.

Establishing this Southern Maryland National Heritage Area ensures that the land is maintained, preserved, and protected so all Americans will be able to use this space, as well as to learn and understand its rich history.

I, again, congratulate Majority Leader HOYER for championing this bill on behalf of his constituents, and I urge everyone to support the bill today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2024, sponsored by Majority Leader

STENY HOYER, which would establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area.

Southern Maryland is notable for being the home of the first English colony to pass a law granting freedom of religion, which later led to the protection of religious freedom in the First Amendment.

The area also serves as home to several national historic and scenic trails, sites related to several American wars, and Project Mercury, the first human spaceflight program.

I urge adoption of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and I am prepared to close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2024, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

**ALABAMA BLACK BELT NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT**

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3222) to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3222

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area Act".*

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

*In this Act:*

(1) *NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.*—The term "National Heritage Area" means the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area established by section 3(a).

(2) *LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.*—The term "local coordinating entity" means the local coordinating entity for the National Heritage Area.

(3) *MANAGEMENT PLAN.*—The term "management plan" means the management plan for the National Heritage Area prepared under section 5(a).

(4) *MAP.*—The term "map" means the map entitled "Alabama Black Belt Proposed National Heritage Area", numbered 258/177,272, and dated September 2021.